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OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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(406) 444-3680  
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Linda McCulloch  
Superintendent

January 3, 2003

TO: Selected District Authorized Representatives of Title I Schools/Districts Identified for Improvement

FROM: BJ Granbery, Division Administrator/Title I Director  
Division of Educational Opportunity and Equity

RE: Fiscal Year 03 Title I, Part A, Improvement Grant

The Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is pleased to inform you that your district is eligible to apply for additional funds through the Title I, Part A, Improvement Grant. Previous to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, all school districts with Title I schools identified for improvement received some additional funding in 2001 and 2002 under a special allocation called Title I Accountability Funds. This new law requires the state agency to distribute 95 percent of its special allocation for school improvement to local education agencies (LEAs). A prioritized list of all eligible schools was established using criteria that included the number of years in improvement status, the percent of students in the novice category in reading and/or math and the percent of students on free or reduced lunch.

Your district is eligible to apply for the allocation determined by school on the enclosed allocation memo. The purpose of these funds is to assist schools and districts in carrying out their school improvement and/or corrective action responsibilities under section 1116 (c) of Title I as described in your school/district plan for improvement. You will notice in the application for funding, that monies are to be targeted to any of five areas: professional development in reading and/or math; updated curriculum materials in reading and/or math; assessment in reading and/or math; extended time opportunities for students in reading and/or math; and parent literacy and/or training in reading and/or math. **The district may request that OPI retain the district's share of these funds and provide the improvement services directly. Please advise us in writing if you wish to employ this option. This may be particularly helpful if the district is now identified for corrective action to be taken by the state.**

All forms are enclosed and may also be downloaded by going to the OPI web site at <http://www.opi.state.mt.us/Title I/index.html> or you may request that the application be e-mailed to you (Word document).

If you have questions, please contact Gwen Smith at (406) 444-5660 and ask for your Title I specialist or e-mail Gwen at [gsmith@state.mt.us](mailto:gsmith@state.mt.us) and she will forward to the appropriate specialist.

Enc. Allocation Notification  
Application for Fiscal Year 2003 Title I, Part A, Improvement Grant

cc: Principals of Listed Schools